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JUN 26 2006

PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

June 20, 2006

Dear Ms. Hill, Mr. Goss, Mr. Coker  
and other appointed or elected officials of Kentucky:

*Executive Director*

Reference: Case Number 2005-00467--Destruction of lives and livelihood  
The Power is in your hands.

I am writing you in a desperate attempt for you to reconsider your decision in **Case Number 2005-00467**. On May 26, 2006 a decision was made in favor of big business, giving them permission to destroy many miles of Kentucky scenic beauty, environmental havens, and ruin people's lives. As one of the landowners, I cannot believe this is happening to the property I own—my life, my livelihood. I do not believe it is too late for me or Kentucky. I believe you have the power to turn this around. Kentucky residents, farm owners, home owners are suffering--we are going to lose to big business decisions and YOU know this. All of Kentucky is going to lose based on your decision. Please consider the following and reverse your decision.

1. You have been given the responsibility to consider the adverse impact these transmission lines will have on our beautiful Kentucky scenery as well as the impact on our environmental assets (KRS 278.027). Miles of rural Kentucky farmland will be destroyed and devalued. The environment and wildlife will also be devastated. The decision in Case Number 2005-00467 does not consider the above.
2. In KRS 278.027 it states all persons residing on or owning property affected by the proposed transmission facility may be heard. However, in your opening statement at the Hardin County hearing, it was implied that the Commission would not consider anything not under, what they considered, their jurisdiction and had a long list of items. The Commission also asked that the people not be redundant. It is my opinion that the Commission's jurisdiction is broader than what was indicated. It is also my opinion that many people felt intimidated by the opening remarks and limited their remarks based on the Commission's opening statement.
3. PSC's summary of the public hearing is not complete. It does not address all of the concerns of the people at the public hearing related to the scenic, environmental, agricultural and developmental concerns. The written statements submitted were not included in the summary. If these were not included in the summary, then it is a logical conclusion, they were not considered in the final decision. (Please note Johnny Jameson testimony. PSC should have denied LG&E/KU request based on Mr. Jameson's testimony alone.)

4. It is my opinion that LG&E/KU and PSC did not comply with KRS 278.708, KRS 278.714, and KRS 278.710 and ignored Senate Bill 246 passed in 2004. As an individual in her 70s who was hoping to have a comfortable, yet meager, retirement by purchasing this small farm, I cannot afford to hire a lawyer to interpret and defend the law that should be followed by LG&E/KU and PSC. I am dependent upon you to follow the law. It is impossible for me to believe the law allows PSC and LG&E/KU to do this to citizens of the United States. I wake up nights saying this cannot be happening here in the United States to good people who have worked hard and just wanted to live out their lives making this place a little better for our children and grandchildren.
5. Is the security of the United States being compromised when we have a foreign-owned company working on our military installation? Has Homeland Security been notified? Whose obligation is it to protect us in this matter?
6. In my opinion this decision did not consider the adverse impact on the scenic and environmental assets; however, there is an article in the Cumberland that the PSC is also ignoring and failing to “support energy efficiency”. It is an article which states that the PSC denied Berea College’s proposal for a cogeneration plant which would support energy efficiency.
7. Another decision made by the PSC in May 2005 on Case Number 2005-00152 had a direct affect on the Case Number 2005-00467. However, PSC denied the people in Case Number 2005-00142 (resubmitted under Case Number 2005-00467) request to intervene in Case Number 2005-00152 because we did not reside in Trimble County. The decision made in 2005-00467 was directly influenced by the decision made in 2005-00152. We should have been allowed to intervene in Case Number 2005-00152. Please reconsider both of these decisions.

At this point I want to appeal to your sense of compassion and concern for the people of Kentucky and doing what is right for the people that have worked hard to get where they are and have what they have. However, I believe I have given you information to consider in reversing your decision. LG&E/KU will not consider us as individuals who are losing their land, retirement, and livelihood. It will be dickering with us—how little will they have to pay us for our property. They will be dickering with our lives, our security. WE NEED YOU TO STEP UP.

Thank you

Violet W. Monroe

vided direction, company laughs! we headed off into the past world in our backpack by the contrast of the new. The past, and the

geology — right before our eyes. Our first night we camped out in the shelter of ancient rock houses, erecting out superlight modern backpacking tents in the shadows of these

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# Public Service Commission Fails to Support Energy Efficiency

by Geoff Young

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is a little-known state agency that regulates utility companies in Kentucky, including electricity and natural gas. The utilities are guaranteed a certain rate of profit, in exchange for operating our energy system in the public interest.

The law that governs the PSC includes the following mandates:

- (1) Every utility may demand, collect and receive fair, just and reasonable rates for the services rendered or to be rendered by it to any person.
- (2) Every utility shall furnish adequate, efficient and reasonable service, and may establish reasonable rules gov-

erning the conduct of its business and the conditions under which it shall be required to render service.

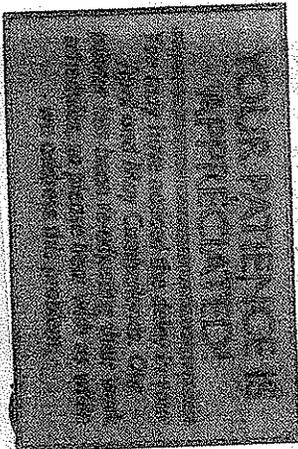
Over the past 70 years of its existence, the PSC has performed well in ensuring adequate energy. There are enough power plants to supply all our electricity needs, and when a utility applies to build a new one the PSC usually approves it. I don't know what the phrase "reasonable service" means, so I'll give the PSC a pass on that one. But in terms of ensuring efficient energy service, the PSC has failed badly.

People don't need electricity or natural gas in themselves; we want the services that these energy sources provide. We need heating, cooling, light, and the ability to run motors and

appliances. The PSC should be making sure that customers receive these energy services in the lowest-cost possible way.

Very often, the most cost-effective way to provide better energy services is to improve efficiency in the customer's business or home.

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# Energy Efficiency...

(continued from page 1)

Sealing leaks in air ducts, windows and buildings, increasing the amount of insulation in ceilings and walls, using compact fluorescent light bulbs, using more efficient electric motors and drives, and a thousand other improvements is much cheaper than building new power plants and gas pipelines. When new buildings are designed and constructed, efficiency can cut long-term energy use by half or more. Cogeneration, or generating electricity and useful heat at the same time, is at least twice as efficient as using fuel to provide the electricity and heat separately. Berea College recently proposed a new cogeneration plant, but the PSC allowed the utility company to block it by imposing excessive fees and requirements.

Instead of requiring utilities to help us improve efficiency, the PSC has taken a passive role. It waits for a utility company to propose an efficiency program, at which point it usually

approves it. In view of the vast amount of energy waste in our economy, that is too little and too late. Kentucky's existing efficiency programs are pitifully small.

Energy efficiency is our biggest energy resource, but the PSC hasn't realized the potential.

For the past two years, Club members in the Bluegrass Group have been calling for a "truce" with the utility industry: If utilities are willing to greatly increase the size and scope of their energy efficiency programs, environmentalists will ask the PSC to reward them with somewhat higher profits. If they fail to harvest the efficiency resources that are available, however, we will call for their profits to be cut. We are setting up a working group to explore this issue with the electric and gas utilities.

A related problem is that the PSC ignores environmental impacts when it assesses which generating technologies a utility should choose. If a new coal-fired power plant has a cheaper pur-

chase price than a hydroelectric turbine or solar electric panels, the PSC has stated that the cleaner technologies shall receive no economic bonus. That is the same as saying that the environmental costs of coal mining and burning are zero.

What can the environmental movement do about this agency that appears to have been captured by the industry it was set up to regulate? The most effective strategy is public pressure. We should write letters to our local newspapers saying that the PSC and the Governor are failing to implement Kentucky's largest, cheapest and cleanest energy source, energy efficiency. The result is that our bills are higher than they need to be and the amount of environmental damage is larger. If the three commissioners who are now on the PSC fail to change their policies, we should demand that the Governor replace them with people who understand the importance of efficiency and clean energy sources.

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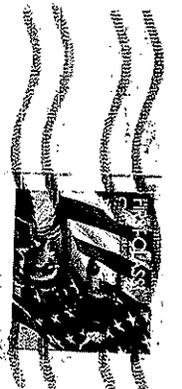


Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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